



Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

**State of Colorado (Coalition with Department of Public
Health and Environment and the City of Westminster)**

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

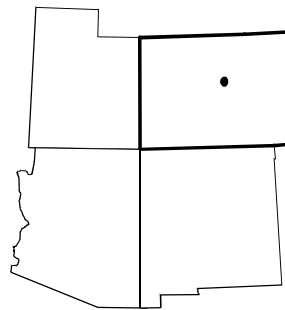
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$250,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund (BCRLF) programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years), to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

The City of Westminster will join the Colorado Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (CBRLF) Coalition previously awarded a BCRLF grant in 1999. The coalition is comprised of the cities of Englewood, Lakewood, Loveland, and Denver, and two State agencies, the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Commerce City, awarded a BCRLF pilot in 1997, will also be joining the coalition. In addition to the State's current role of providing assistance to coalition members, it will apply a portion of coalition funding toward making loans on a state-wide basis. Funding added to address the City of Westminster and the state-wide loans will be pooled with existing funds in the CBRLF.

In the late eighties, the demographics in Westminster were such that much of the population was aging and retiring. This reduction in workforce reduced the tax base and caused businesses to relocate. In recent years, however, the area experienced an influx of families, although the younger population has found jobs in the community to be lacking. In the South Westminster revitalization area, income levels are substantially

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$2.0 million

BCRLF Target Area:
The South Westminster
Revitalization Area; other
sites located throughout the
State

Coalition: The State of Colorado and the City of Westminster

Contacts:

State of Colorado
Superfund Section Chief
(303) 692-3398

Region 8 Brownfields
RLF Coordinator
(303) 312-6982

Visit the EPA Region 8 Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/region08/land_waste/bfhome/bfhome.html

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional
Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications
and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

www.epa.gov/brownfields

lower than in other parts of the City. Approximately one in five families lives below the poverty line. These low-income neighborhoods are usually situated in clusters around commercial and industrial areas potentially exposing residents to environmental risks. The City is actively pursuing the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields. The City was awarded an EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot in June 1999.

BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The Coalition's objective is to support local economic and community development efforts through the cleanup, redevelopment, and reuse of contaminated sites. As with the original purpose of the coalition, Colorado and its coalition members will use the BCRLF to help fill the financing gap resulting from the absence of public brownfields cleanup funding resources in the State. The CDPHE will use its grant funds on a statewide level to assist smaller communities and Native American tribes in the cleanup of small, underutilized, contaminated properties. The City of Westminster has targeted two areas for BCRLF cleanup and redevelopment: the Little Dry Creek Corridor and the 73rd and Lowell Redevelopment Area.

FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The CDPHE will serve as the lead agency and will assist coalition communities in carrying out site management responsibilities. CHFA is serving as fund manager. A Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the member cities and state agencies provides policy direction to the Coalition.

LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES

BCRLF funds will be used in conjunction with tax incentives in the State's Enterprise Zones, State Brownfields Income Tax incentives, and numerous other financial incentives offered at the local government level. Westminster is a HUD entitlement city and has Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies available for South Westminster. CHFA's commercial loan program will also be of assistance in financing the non-cleanup related activities associated with the redevelopment of these brownfields. The City of Westminster will also be providing significant resources and funding of its own to the program.

Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.
